



Glass Society - free Zoom talk

Ayako Tani:

After Pyrex: Glass Ships in Bottles

7pm BST, Thursday 9th June 2022, on Zoom

The technique of fabricating glass apparatus using a gas burner is called scientific glassblowing. Laboratory glassware is generally made of borosilicate glass, Pyrex being one prominent brand. James A. Jobling Ltd., Sunderland, became the home of British Pyrex production. In the 1970s, however, the glassblowers of this major UK centre were made redundant. Some of these skilled artisans turned to producing glass giftware.

This lecture will give a detailed overview of the development of the glass ships in bottles industry between the 1970s and the early 2000s, and will explain how the art and design industry today continues to benefit from the lampworking skills maintained and preserved by this phenomenon.

Ayako Tani (b. Tokyo, Japan) is a practice-based researcher in glass, specialising in lampworking. She was first introduced to glass at Tokyo Glass Art Institute, and later completed her MA and PhD in Glass at the University of

Sunderland. In 2018, she was a demonstrator at the Glass Art Society conference, and was awarded a Jutta-Cuny Talent Award in 2019. In the same year, she was AHRC Creative Economy Engagement Fellow at the University of Sunderland. She is currently working as a glassblower for the University of Glasgow as well as undertaking various teaching, research and curatorial activities in the UK and abroad.



[picture credit: Photo by Sound Ideas Media exhibition at Cheeseburn Sculpture Gardens, Northumberland, 2019]

TO BOOK: Please contact David Willars at gsocfinancial@gmail.com. Please note, places are limited. You will be sent details of how to join the Zoom meeting before the 9th June.

We are continuing to hold meetings on this platform, as well as some meetings in London and elsewhere.